pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question Nos. 1649 and 1852 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 2006 and 30th August, 2007 respectively and state:

(a) the name of the location of the proposed Submarine Cable Landline Station in West Bengal;

(b) the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the tentative time schedule of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The name of the location of the proposed Submarine Cable Landing Station in West Bengal is Digha.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is 400 million U.S. Dollars.

(c) The likely date of the completion of the project shall be approximately 15 months from the date of award of contract. The likely date of award of contract is March/April, 2008. Accordingly, the tentative date of the completion of the project is 3rd Quarter of 2009.

Spectrum usage charges

1035. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunication Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecommunications in its report submitted recently has made certain recommendations, *inter-alia,* on the spectrum usage charges;

(b) whether this report has spurred a debate between the private mobile telephone service providers based on GSM and CDMA technologies and the MTNL/BSNL; and

(c) if so, details and the measures contemplated to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC)'s Report, *inter-alia* on 'Spectral Efficiency' has been accepted by the Government in-principle, Cellular Operators Association of India and Others have challenged the Government decision, *inter-alia,* on this Report in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is *sub-judice*;

Declining BSNL mobile services standard

†1036. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for constant decrease in BSNL mobile services standard in various parts of Uttarakhand State;

(b) the details of the steps being taken to remove these causes;

(c) whether his Ministry is formulating any special action plan for the expansion of BSNL mobile services in the border area of the State; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.